

## PHYSICAL THERAPY DIRECT ACCESS RULES

November 14, 2013

The information for Direct Access is taken from Assembly Bill No. 1000 which was signed into law in September, 2013. This law tightens up the penalties and the scope of the causes (Section 2660). Also, these are summaries of the important changes to the Business and Professions Code that directly affects you:

2620.1. (1) If, at any time, the physical therapist has reason to believe that the patient has signs or symptoms of a condition that requires treatment beyond the scope of practice of a physical therapist or the patient is not progressing toward documented treatment goals as demonstrated by objective, measurable, or functional improvement, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to a Doctor, Osteopath, Podiatrist, Chiropractor or dentist.

2620.1. (3) With the patient's written authorization, the physical therapist shall notify the patient's physician and surgeon, if any, that the physical therapist is treating the patient.

2620.1. (4) The physical therapist shall not continue treating the patient beyond 45 calendar days or 12 visits, whichever occurs first, without receiving, from a Doctor, Osteopath or Podiatrist, a dated signature as approval on the physical therapist's plan of care. This approval shall include an in-person examination of the patient by the Doctor, Osteopath or Podiatrist and, if indicated or needed, testing by the physician and surgeon or podiatrist.

2620.1. (4) (c) (1) This section does not expand or modify the scope of practice for physical therapists including the prohibition on a physical therapist diagnosing a disease.

2620.1. (4) (e) When a person initiates physical therapy treatment services directly, the physical therapist shall not perform physical therapy treatment services without first providing the following notice to the patient, orally and in writing, in at least 14-point type and signed by the patient:

### “Direct Physical Therapy Treatment Services

You are receiving direct physical therapy treatment services from an individual who is a physical therapist licensed by the Physical Therapy Board of California.

Under California law, you may continue to receive direct physical therapy treatment services for a period of up to 45 calendar days or 12 visits, whichever occurs first, after which time a physical therapist may continue providing you with physical therapy treatment services only after receiving, from a person holding a physician and surgeon's certificate issued by the Medical Board of California or by the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, or from a person holding a certificate to practice podiatric medicine from the California Board of Podiatric Medicine and acting within his or her scope of practice, a dated signature on the physical therapist's plan of care indicating approval of the physical therapist's plan of care and that an in-person patient examination and evaluation was conducted by the physician and surgeon or podiatrist.

Patient's Signature/Date”